



INDEPENDENT TRAVEL TRAINING

Parent / Carer Information



Independent Travel Training (ITT) aims to improve and enhance life skills and independence for young people. This is delivered through the completion of 1-1 training which is shaped around individual needs.



What is ITT?

ITT helps to provide young people with the skills they need to travel independently. Independent travel is a crucial life skill that helps to give a young person the freedom to fulfil their potential and live a full life.

ITT is part of the national curriculum and if your child is assessed as being able to commence training, our ITT Team will aim to give them the skills they need to make important journeys whilst providing parents with peace of mind that their young people are travelling safely.

Who qualifies?

Any young person with an Education, Health and Care Plan (EHCP) who is eligible for travel support under our policy. This can be found by on our website.

[Home to School Travel Assistance policy | Cumberland Council](#)

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Benefits for young people

CONFIDENCE

An increase in confidence, not only around travel but with interaction with others

LIFESTYLE BENEFITS

New opportunities, whether they are leisure based or otherwise and promoting healthier lifestyles

INCREASING WIDER OPPORTUNITIES

Promoting access to employment, further education

INCREASING INDEPENDENCE

The ability to travel alone and to other destinations, safely exploring the local area



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How does my child access ITT?

Before any training takes place, the Home to School Travel team will first assess that your child is ready, in their view, to be considered for ITT. To be considered for ITT your child must have the potential - once successfully trained - to travel to and from school completely independently (i.e. without an escort).

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What happens next?

The Home to School Travel team will assess your child's readiness to begin ITT. This assessment will involve the travel trainer meeting your child, consulting teaching staff and any other relevant professionals, and carrying out a full risk assessment.

During this process, the trainer will assess whether your child will be able - once trained - to complete the home to school journey safely and with minimal risk.

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What is my role as a parent?

Assessment for travel training will only start when your child is ready. If you think your child is ready to begin travel training but the Home to School Travel team has not yet assessed them for ITT, you should contact the team. If the Home to School Travel team agrees that your child is ready to be assessed for travel, then they will start the assessment.

Not every child will be able to be travel trained. If your child is assessed as not being ready for ITT at this stage, then their details will be kept on file and re-assessed at a later stage.

Contact the team on 0300 303 1591 (option 1)



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How will this affect my child's eligibility to home to school transport?

The Council's ITT scheme is currently only available for young people who are eligible for SEND travel assistance. The Home to School Travel team will only begin independent travel assessment and training with your parental consent. This consent gives our team permission to begin training your child and means that, if trained successfully, your child will travel to school or college independently instead of on Council-provided transport. This is a really positive step: if your child has been signed off to travel independently from home to school then they will no longer need other forms of travel assistance.

Support will be tailored to individual needs following assessments and could include an element of 1:1 support for a time limited period.

As part of the ongoing training, we will review each young person's circumstances on an individual basis, looking at the ways in which we can best support them to successfully engage in and complete the course - and to gain the skills and confidence they need to travel independently.

Relevant training will be given to assist with the journey that will be undertaken – this will include a trainer shadowing them from a safe distance, managing risk and post training support.



New skills: With consent of a parent or carer, trainers accompany the applicant throughout the whole journey to school or college, empowering them to manage every aspect of the journey independently

Training covers all aspects of travel from home to school or college including

Planning the journey



Personal and road safety



Reading and understanding a timetable



How to cope when changes occur



Using a bus/train pass and paying a fare



Knowing where to get help

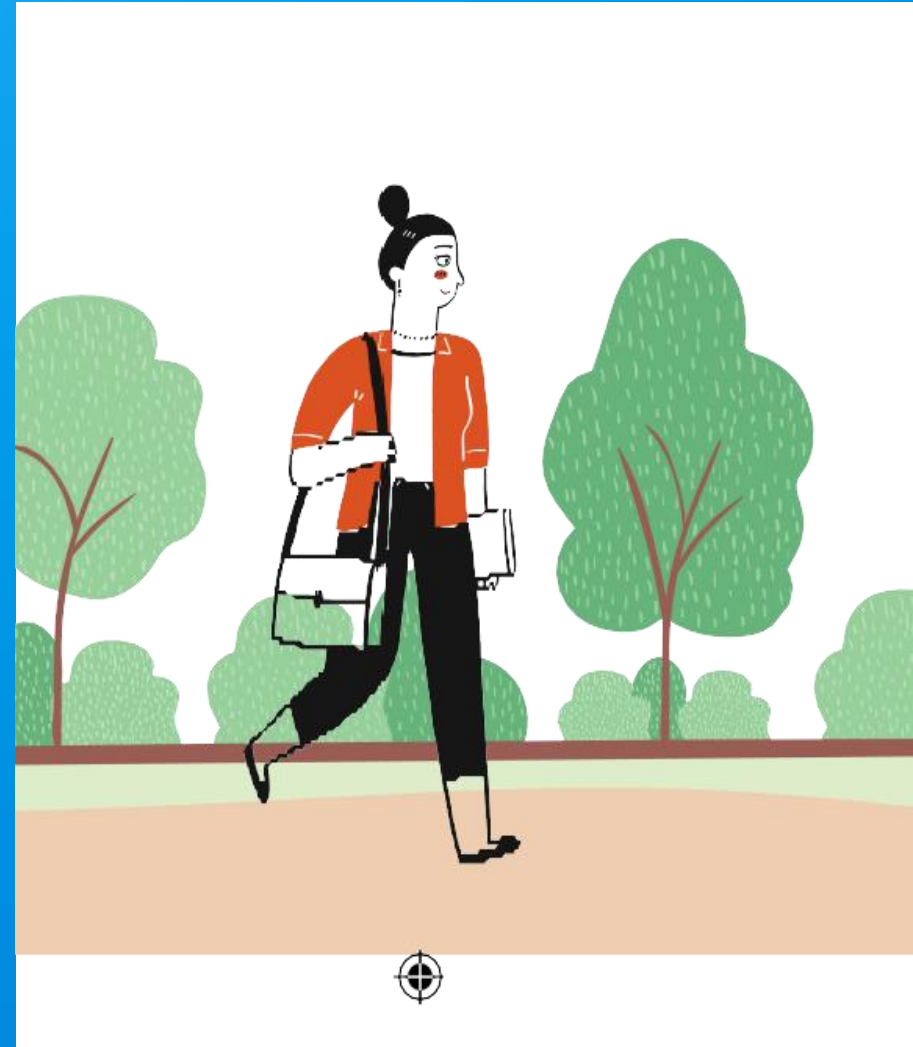


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After training, what routes will my child be able to travel on independently?

Travel training focuses on a specific journey, usually the home-to-school journey, and young people will only be trained on this journey. The reason for this is that it is easier to teach the basics of independent travel on a single route. Your child can then practice what they have learned every day when travelling to and from school and reinforce their new skills, knowledge and confidence.

Your child will need to be able to practice the new skills that they have learned at school. This is because, without practice, the independent travel skills they have learned will be lost.



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Confirming the young person is safe

The final stage of the programme will involve your child making a 'confirmation journey' with no direct support from the trainer. During this journey, your child will be shadowed by a different trainer from the team, who will keep them safe and ensure that they are applying what they have learned. Your child will "lead" this journey and the trainer will only intervene if there is a risk to your child or others. These semi-independent journeys allow the ITT team to assess whether your child is able to travel independently and identify any outstanding learning needs

Recognising achievement

After this final, 'confirmation stage' has been completed, travel coordinators and other professionals will get together to make a final decision. If it is agreed that your child is ready to begin travelling independently, they will be officially signed off from travel training and awarded a certificate that recognises their achievements.

It should be noted that, not all young people will get to this stage and if the team are not confident that your child can travel safely, they will not be signed off. If this is the case, further training may be recommended and an action plan put in place to deliver this training.



If you would like to find out more about Independent Travel Training in Cumberland contact:

Cumberland Council Home to School Travel Team:

Email: ITT@cumberland.gov.uk

Web link: [Apply for school transport | Cumberland Council](#)